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GRANGE-OVER-SANDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1956

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Town Hall,

ULVERSTON,

November, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	1,884
Population -Census, 1951	3,028
-Registrar General's Estimate Mid 1956	2,840,
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956	1,103
Rateable Value	£61,636
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£235

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1956 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page two.

Of the 27 births registered, 11 were females and 16 were males of which one was illegitimate.

Approximately 90% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The main causes of death were:- Heart disease 17, Cancer 17 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 12.

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality Total Neo-Natal.		
	Rate per Number 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Rate per Number 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Rate per Number 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Rate per Number 1,000 regis- tered. ation.	Rate per Number 1,000 regis- tered. births.	Rate per Number 1,000 regis- tered. births.	Rate per No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. births.	Rate per No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. births.	Rate per No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. births.	Rate per No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. births.	Rate per No. of deaths 1,000 regis- tered. births.
1956	27	x9.5	54	x19.4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1955	24	8.4	48	16.8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1954	25	8.3	61	21.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	40	40
1953	27	9.6	61	21.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1952	27	9.8	53	19.2	1	36	Nil	Nil	1	37	37
1951	26	9.4	40	14.4	2	71	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Average 5 years-1951- 1955.	-	9.2	-	18.7	-	21	-	-	-	15	15

X Adjusted Live Birth Rate (Comparability factor, 1.47) = 14.0 per 1,000
Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability factor, 0.53) = 10.3 per 1,000

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller Towns and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.		160 Smaller towns 25,000-50,000 population.		Grange-over-Sands Urban District.	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	13.0	11.5
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	12.8	13.0
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.3	13.1	10.9
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	12.4	8.4
1956	15.6	11.7	15.6	11.6	14.0	10.3

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban
District, Ulverston Urban
District, Ulverston Rural
District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J. SPENCER, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate
R.S.I., and S.I.E.J.B.
Inspector of Meat and other
Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to Grange Urban District is from moorland gathering grounds which are not cultivated but grazed by sheep. The gathering grounds are situated at Chapel House Plantation in the Parish of Staveley in the Ulverston Rural District, supplying a new reservoir at Simpson Ground, and a further area at Newton-in-Cartmel where two smaller reservoirs and the treatment works are situated.

The reservoirs have a total capacity of 72 million gallons.

Early in the year, the construction of the treatment works at Newton was completed and on the 4th May, opening ceremonies were performed by Sir A. Bates, Chairman of the Lancashire County Council and Councillor A. Ward, Chairman of the Grange Urban District Council, at Simpson Ground and Newton respectively.

The treatment plant at Newton consists of eight pressure filters (Messrs. Bell & Co.,) with the necessary chemical tanks etc. Chemicals added to assist filtration are Sulphate of Alumina and Sodium Carbonate. After filtration, chlorination takes place, the water is treated with lime and passes to storage tanks having a capacity of 140,000 gallons, thence to the trunk mains for distribution.

There are three service reservoirs in Grange, at Windermere Road (150,000 gallons), Hampsfell (200,000 gallons) and Wartbarrow (200,000 gallons) which serve as reservoirs in case of interruption in trunk mains and also for equalising demand in the trunk mains.

The supply was maintained with difficulty due to the necessity of emptying number one reservoir at Newton in order that a new valve tower could be constructed.

When required the supply was augmented by pumping into the main from a spring in the Ornamental Gardens. On these occasions the spring water was sterilised by "Chlcros".

There are no private water supplies in the area and all houses have a piped water supply.

Six samples taken for bacteriological examination were classified as highly satisfactory. One sample of untreated water was unsatisfactory but a sample taken at the same time but after treatment was highly satisfactory.

Six samples for chemical analysis were taken and of these three were suitable for drinking and domestic use. One showed inconsistency in constituents but a later sample taken at the same point proved suitable. The analyst suggested that possibly the bottle was contaminated in some way.

The work on the 9" trunk main from Merlewood to Grange was completed during the year.

RAINFALL.

January	4.72	July	5.38
February	0.51	August	8.21
March	1.38	September	3.66
April	1.15	October	3.97
May	2.01	November	1.52
June	1.67	December	4.25

<u>Year.</u>	<u>First Quarter.</u>	<u>Second Quarter.</u>	<u>Third Quarter.</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1942	8.12	7.87	17.08	14.50	47.59
1943	12.55	12.36	19.72	13.20	57.83
1944	8.61	10.90	16.22	20.33	56.06
1945	13.22	10.80	10.20	10.39	44.61
1946	12.97	8.72	20.12	16.83	58.64
1947	9.89	12.42	9.87	11.74	43.92
1948	16.86	13.69	14.95	13.39	58.89
1949	9.29	9.18	9.06	21.02	48.55
1950	11.83	8.63	21.04	12.87	54.37
1951	15.86	5.87	13.72	12.86	48.31
1952	10.38	9.58	8.14	10.24	38.34
1953	5.97	8.94	13.50	13.74	42.74
1954	13.17	11.13	20.85	23.50	68.65
1955	6.31	11.75	8.49	12.76	39.31
1956	6.61	4.83	17.25	9.74	38.43
15 years average.	10.77	9.77	14.68	14.47	49.74

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage to the Urban District is a combined system and disposal is by rough screening followed by discharge into the tidal estuary.

Most of the district is sewered, apart from isolated areas which are dependent on septic tanks. These areas are briefly, the higher parts of Grange Fell, the Slack area of Windermere Road, Lyndene Estate, a number of farms and Holme Island.

Sewage from the lower end of Grange adjacent to the railway station is intended to be collected in a well situated in the Ornamental Gardens where dual pumps are installed to lift the sewage into the main outfall sewer. This sewer runs the full length of the Promenade from the Station to the main outfall tanks, where sewage is screened and discharged into the estuary. The higher parts of the town (excluding Kents Bank Area) discharge into the tributary sewers which ultimately join the main sewer on the Promenade.

The pumps in the Ornamental Gardens are not in working order and at the moment, sewage intended to be dealt with by them is screened and discharged into the estuary near to the station.

During the year, the Council's consulting Engineers investigated the question of sewage disposal for Grange and at the end of the year were drawing up alternative schemes for the Council's perusal.

In Kents Bank area the main outfall sewer passes under the Railway adjacent to Kents Bank Station and then along the seaward side of the railway embankment to a screening tank (situated at Kirkhead End), the outfall from which again discharges into the estuary.

The Cart Lane area drains into a settlement tank and then discharges via a tidal door into the estuary. This tank is working beyond capacity.

The sedimentation tanks were emptied regularly and the system operated quite well on the whole but a few stoppages occurred due mainly to the fault of owners depositing scrubbing brushes, rags, etc., in their drains.

All the houses in the Urban District are provided with fresh water closets

Twenty one properties were connected to the main sewer during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A fortnightly collection of domestic refuse was maintained throughout the year. The domestic refuse is collected with a special type vehicle employing a staff of two, assisted when necessary with the general purpose vehicle and a further two men.

Where necessary a weekly service was provided at Hotels, Cafes, Shops etc., This was undertaken jointly by the special vehicle and the general purpose vehicle employing in all a staff of four.

The whole of the refuse is dealt with at the Council's incinerator and other material like builder's refuse etc., is tipped adjacent to the incinerator. The stopping of indiscriminate tipping has resulted in an improvement in the state of the tip.

Informal action was taken in a few cases for the provision of refuse bins and in all cases the notices were complied with. A certain amount of salvage was sold during the year but the demand still fluctuates.

The question of the disposal of scrap tins became very acute and the Council endeavoured to engage the services of a mobile baler but satisfactory arrangements could not be made. At the end of the year the Council were attempting to purchase a second hand baler and have it installed.

BATHING POOL.

A modern open air bathing pool of 445,000 gallons capacity is provided and maintained by the Council. Sea water is taken at appropriate states of the tide, filtered, aerated and chlorinated, and when the pool is in use the water is constantly circulated and treated. Samples taken at regular intervals during the summer were satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are the particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1948.

HOUSING.

Housing conditions in Grange are of a fairly high standard. The older type of houses are, in the main stone structures, whilst the more modern type are of brick and/or stone. All have the water carriage system of drainage, internal water supply and movable dustbins.

In Grange Fell district where there is a large proportion of smaller and older dwellings, the properties are in a reasonable state of repair, the majority being owner occupied. The principle defect to this type of house is the shortage of yard space but most have gardens of considerable size, thereby reducing their density.

No conditions of overcrowding were reported.

Council Housing.

The building of council houses was at a standstill during the year, although considerable thought was given to the question and it was decided to consider plans of various types and sites.

<u>Number of new houses erected during the year:-</u>	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats and Maisonettes.</u>
(1) By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	13	7

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	41
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose, formal or informal	93
(2)		Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:-	
	(a)	Number found during the year	Nil
	(b)	Number at end of year	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	32

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year Nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

		<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons Displaced.</u>
(1)	Houses demolished during the year:		
	(a) Housing Act, 1936.		
	Demolished or closed as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	Nil	Nil
	(b) Housing Act, 1949.		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
	(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	Nil	Nil
(2)	Repairs during the year:		<u>No. of Houses.</u>
	(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of <u>informal action</u> by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.		24
	(b) Public Health Acts - action after service of <u>formal notice</u> - Houses in which defects were remedied:		
	By owners		1
	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
	(c) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of <u>formal notice</u> (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit:		
	By owners		Nil
	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
	(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act. 1954:		
	Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7. Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.

	<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.</u>
Action during the year:-		
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	8	8
(b) Approved by local authority	7	7
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	7	7
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above		7

CAMPING SITES.

Two sites were used in the district for camping purposes. No licences were issued by the Local Authority under the Public Health Act. No caravans were permanently occupied. Routine visits to the sites were carried out and informal action was necessary on occasions.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease has been remarkably low throughout the year.

Notifications of Infectious Disease.

Disease.	Number of cases in year					1956		
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Number of Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	3	1	18	86	17	5	0	0
Whooping cough	2	1	0	4	38	1	0	0
Pneumonia	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	5	6	25	90	57	6	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

No new cases were reported from the Grange Urban District during the year under review.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Most of the factories in Grange are allied to other businesses, such as shops, bakehouses and workshops operating machines, and are therefore legally designated as factories. Most of these were visited and informal action necessary on a few occasions for want of cleanliness or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	14	Nil	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Forty two inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1950 and eight offices under the Public Health Act, 1936. Only informal action was necessary where notices were not displayed and cleanliness not up to standard.

SCHOOLS.

There are three schools within the district all have a satisfactory mains water supply and sanitary accommodation, and are provided with dustbins. All are drained to the public sewer.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades operating in Grange.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951.

No action was taken under the above acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, I thank the members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Grange Urban District Council and in particular the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor for their courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE INSPECTION AND

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Only tuberculin tested milk is sold in the district and no heat treated milk is sold. There were nine persons retailing milk in Grange, seven operating from premises within the Ulverston Rural District, one from a dairy farm and one from a shop within the district.

Twenty six samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and only three gave unsatisfactory results. The facts were reported to the County Milk Production Officer and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

None of the twenty six samples contained tubercle bacilli.

ICE CREAM.

Eighteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and of these five are registered for manufacture by the cold mix method. At only one, however, is ice cream manufactured, all the remainder sell ice cream obtained from reputable firms.

MEAT INSPECTION.

One private slaughterhouse is licensed and used by one butcher. Improvements to the artificial lights were carried out and the installation of a power driven saw gives a better finished product as well as giving a saving in time.

Ante-Mortem inspection of all animals is carried out when ever possible and post-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out.

The other butchers in the town either use the Public Abattoir at Ulverston or buy their meat from wholesale suppliers.

Statistics are given as to number slaughtered and number of diseased animals.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	149	Nil	20	767	181
Number Inspected	149	Nil	20	767	181
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	1
Part of carcass or organs condemned	50	Nil	Nil	36	21
Percentage affected	33.55%	Nil	10%	4.7%	12.7%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Parts of carcass or organs condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	2.0%	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.65%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year, the following articles of food were surrendered for destruction after examination.

	<u>Quantity Examined</u>	<u>Quantity Condemned.</u>
Frozen Ox Kidneys	23 lbs.	23 lbs.
Tinned Meat	31 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	31 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Bacon	25 lbs.	25 lbs.
Poultry	90 lbs.	61 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	9 lbs.	9 lbs.
Orange Crush Compound	112 lbs.	56 lbs.
Cream	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons
Cheese	12 lbs	6 lbs.
Oatmeal	4 lbs.	4 lbs.
Confectionery (Cakes)	4 lbs	1 lb.

FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections of food premises were carried out. Formal action under the Food and Drugs Act was not necessary although the attention of traders had to be drawn to numerous faults in the state and cleanliness of premises and also in food handling practice. It is pleasing to note that the faults were quickly remedied when attention was drawn to them.

Alterations and improvements were carried out in various food premises, some were on a fairly large scale, others were smaller but equally effective.

It is hoped that further improvements can be made in the future and improve still further the standard of food hygiene in Grange.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

J. SPENCER,

Public Health Inspector.

